



Vol. 3 Issue 3 March 2020

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Acting Superintendent

Contents

MSP Celebrates Black
History Month

PHOTOS: 2020 Polar Bear
Plunge/Deep Creek Dunk

Traffic Stop Leads To Arrest
Of Armed Robbery Suspect

North East Barrack Troopers
Rescue Dog After Accident

MADD Honors Rockville
Barrack Troopers

Pathfinders For Autism
Recognizes State Police

Centreville Welcomes
Trooper Home From Army

Safer Internet Day Promotes
Safety Tips For Kids, Seniors

Operation Targeted Criminal
Activity In St. Mary's County

Census Important For
Public Safety Funding



Colonel Woodrow W. "Jerry" Jones III

MDTA Police Chief, Longtime MSP Commander, Named New Superintendent

On February 18, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland Transportation Authority Police Chief Woodrow W. "Jerry" Jones III was appointed the 20th Superintendent of the Maryland State Police.

Col. Jones replaces Col. William Pallozzi, who retired on Feb. 21 after a 31-year career that included serving as Superintendent for the past five years. He retires having served at every rank within the department.

"With a distinguished career in law enforcement spanning more than three decades, Colonel Jones has both the experience and the character to lead what I believe is

truly the best state police organization in the nation," said Governor Hogan. "I want to sincerely thank Colonel Jones for taking on this post at such a critical time. I want to commend Colonel Pallozzi for his steadfast leadership of the Maryland State Police, and for his decades of dedicated service to the State of Maryland."

Prior to the MDTA Police, Col. Jones spent 27 years with MSP, beginning in 1988. During his career, Col. Jones served in every command position within the Field Operations Bureau. He initially retired from MSP as a lieutenant colonel and Chief of the Field Operations Bureau.



IMPACT UPDATE



(L to R) Capt. Crystal Carter-Savage, retired TFC Jacqueline Ringgold-Johnson, Trooper Tykeshia Johnson and retired Major Anita L. Allen were recognized during the Maryland State Police Black History Month celebration.

Trailblazing Female Troopers Recognized During Black History Month Celebration

(PIKESVILLE, MD) — On Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, the Maryland State Police gathered to celebrate Black History Month.

During the two-hour event, troopers past and present, along with the latest Trooper Candidate Class, witnessed a panel discussion that highlighted several trailblazing African-American female troopers who have made a difference in the community. This panel was also part of the ongoing MSP Year of the Woman recognitions.

Those who participated included retired TFC Jacqueline Ringgold-Johnson, who in 1974 became one of the first two African-American women to graduate from the

State Police Academy.

Retired Major Anita L. Allen, who graduated from the 99th Maryland State Police Academy Class in 1989, would go on to become the department's first African-American female barrack commander and commissioned officer.

Upon her retirement, Major Allen held the distinction as the highest ranking African American female trooper ever in the department. Major Allen retired as the Assistant Chief of the Support Services Bureau in charge of Logistics Command.

Captain Crystal Carter Savage, a graduate of the 111th Maryland

State Police Academy Class in 1998, rose through the ranks, eventually becoming assistant commander and commander at the Forestville Barrack. Today she is the commander of the Office of Promotional Testing.

Trooper Tykeshia Johnson was the youngest member of the panel. The 39-year-old served as a sergeant in the Delaware Department of Corrections before becoming a detective with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Police Department.

On Dec. 20, 2019, Trooper Johnson graduated as a member of the 150th Maryland State Police Academy Class. She is assigned to the Salisbury Barrack.



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: 2020 MSP Polar Bear Plunge, MSP/NRP Deep Creek Dunk



Maryland State Police were well represented in January's MSP Polar Bear Plunge and February's MSP/NRP Deep Creek Dunk festivities to benefit Special Olympics MD. Overall, teams of plungers from the State Police and the Office of the State Fire Marshal combined raised about \$29,000 while participating in the Police Plunge. This included about \$15,000 raised from the MSP 151st Trooper Candidate Class, along with Headquarters Staff (\$4,467), Golden Ring Barrack (\$5,645), Aviation Command (\$2,850) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (\$1,070).





IMPACT UPDATE

Safety Tip of the Month

Simple steps can go a long way toward protecting children, seniors and other potentially vulnerable populations from the potential dangers associated with the Internet.

Here are some tips for parents:

- Reinforce the guiding rule "Don't talk to strangers."
- Put accounts in your name and know your child's passwords
- Don't let your children give out personal information online

Here are tips for senior citizens:

- Use extreme caution when sharing personal information online
- Avoid suspicious emails that ask for personal information
- Avoid the release of personal information in an unsafe forum



Traffic Stop Leads To Arrest Of Armed Robbery Suspect In Harford County

(EDGEWOOD, MD) – Maryland State Police arrested an armed robbery suspect following a traffic stop Feb. 5 in Harford County.

The suspect, Lavonta Graham, 27, of Baltimore, Maryland, was initially charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana following the traffic stop.

A warrant check conducted by troopers discovered that Graham was wanted for armed robbery in Baltimore County, along with first-degree assault, second-degree assault, reckless endangerment, illegal possession of a firearm and armed robbery in Baltimore City. He was transported to the Maryland State Police Bel Air Barrack for processing.

Shortly before 3:15 p.m. on Feb. 5, troopers from the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division's Firearm's Enforcement

Unit were on patrol in the area of Brookside Drive at Treetop Drive in Edgewood, Maryland. According to a preliminary investigation, troopers witnessed a Honda Accord with illegally tinted windows speeding in the area, which led to a traffic stop of the vehicle.

During contact with the occupants, a probable cause search was conducted and suspected marijuana was located. Two occupants in the vehicle besides Graham were charged with a civil citation for possession of marijuana.

The Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division - Firearms Enforcement Unit is committed to supporting Governor Hogan's war on gun violence. The Firearms Enforcement Unit consists of sworn troopers that are tasked with traveling around the state to identify, infiltrate and dismantle firearm-related violence.



IMPACT UPDATE

North East Barrack Troopers Rescue Dog Struck By Car, Reunite 'Bruiser' With Owners

(NORTH EAST, MD) — Bruiser the bulldog had a rough time one evening last month, but his bad day ended happily thanks to the work of a good Samaritan and two Maryland state troopers.

Bruiser's ordeal began around 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 when he was struck by an unknown vehicle in the area of Pulaski Highway and Rodgers Road. A good Samaritan saw the injured dog and stayed with it until troopers, along with the Cecil County Sheriff's Office arrived at the scene.

"He was definitely injured," Maryland State Police Cpl. Ryan Boyce, a member of the K9 Unit, said. "I can't imagine how someone could strike a dog like that and not stick around to help."

With the help of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Cpl. Boyce, along with Trooper First Class Stanley Gustaitis, got Bruiser safely back to the North East Barrack. Boyce said he used some of the specialized first aid training he received as a member of the K9 unit to care for Bruiser's injured paw.

The barrack then posted a photo of Bruiser on social media, and before long, his owners



TFC Stanley Gustaitis and Cpl. Ryan Boyce kneel next to "Bruiser," a bulldog they helped rescue after it was hit by a vehicle in North East, Maryland.

recognized him online and went to the barrack to bring him home. Cpl. Boyce said the dog's owner's son had accidentally left the gate to their yard open and Bruiser was able to run away before he got hurt.

The owners, who were extremely grateful that Bruiser was recovered and reunited with them, took the dog to a veterinarian to

receive additional medical care.

"I was just glad we were able to help," Cpl. Boyce said. "I looked at Bruiser and just thought to myself 'What if he was my dog?' I would want someone to help him the same way we were able to do in this case."

Job well done Cpl. Boyce & Tfc. Gustaitis!



IMPACT UPDATE



Pictured from left to right: Rockville Barrack Commander Lt. Vince Upole, TFC Zachary Campbell, S/Tpr. Joseph Ekani, MADD representative Robin Stimson and TFC Lyle German. Campbell, Ekani and German were recognized for their effort to combat impaired driving.

MADD Honors Rockville Barrack Troopers For Efforts To Combat Impaired Driving

(ROCKVILLE, MD) — Three troopers from the Maryland State Police Rockville Barrack were recently honored for their work to combat impaired driving in Montgomery County.

On Feb. 3, Robin Stimson from MADD Maryland visited the Rockville Barrack and recognized the troopers for going the extra mile in their efforts to remove impaired drivers from state roadways over the past year. Each trooper – Sr. Trooper Joseph Ekani, Trooper First Class Lyle German and Trooper First Class Zachary Campbell – each received a Commander's Award

and certificate from MADD.

Maryland State Police Rockville Barrack Commander Lt. Vincent Upole said that each trooper honored by MADD averaged at least three driving under the influence arrests a month in 2019. The troopers also led the Rockville Barrack and collectively removed 135 impaired drivers from Montgomery County roads last year, accounting for approximately 30 percent of the total arrests made at the barrack.

Lt. Upole said this feat was even more impressive due to the

amount of extra work the troopers did field training new troopers, working the Baltimore City detail and serving on decentralized units such as the Underwater Recovery Team.

According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office, between 2014 and 2018 an average of 159 lives were lost and 3,190 people were injured across the state in crashes involving impaired drivers. In addition, an average of 169 people died and 26,645 more were injured each year in Maryland due to distracted driving over the same period.



IMPACT UPDATE

Pathfinders For Autism Selects Maryland State Police As 20 For 20 Honoree

(BALTIMORE) — The Maryland State Police is honored to have been recently recognized by Pathfinders for Autism as one of the Baltimore-based non-profit's **"20 for 20 Honorees."**

Pathfinder's For Autism, which was founded in 2000 by Baltimore Orioles Hall of Famer B.J. Surhoff and his wife, Polly, nominated 20 individuals and businesses that have made a significant impact on the organization's growth and development over the last 20 years.

Each of the honorees is being highlighted throughout the organization's 20 for 20 campaign which runs Feb. 1 to June 15.

The Maryland State Police family is grateful for the recognition from Pathfinders For Autism as one of their 20 for 20 honorees. In their description of why the Maryland State Police was being honored, Pathfinders For Autism said:

"In 2012, the Maryland State Police (MSP) requested the assistance of Pathfinders for Autism

(PFA) to develop an autism spectrum disorder curriculum for their (Training) Academy."

"Since then, [Pathfinders for Autism] has taught 12 Maryland State Police Academy classes and



31 in-service classes."

"MSP has been a critical law enforcement partner, serving as a curriculum consultant, participating in multiple 'Be Safe' sessions around the state, and supporting PFA staff in earning law enforcement instructor certification. Several MSP Academy classes have supported Run Wild for Autism as volunteers and participants."

The Maryland State Police is honored to be recognized by Pathfinders For Autism and appreciate the dedication of their staff to training our troopers about this important issue.

The State Police is especially proud of one of their instructors, Mr. Josh Smith, who is a member of the Maryland State Police family and is also an honorary trooper.

Pathfinders for Autism works to support and improve the lives of individuals affected by autism through expansive, individualized programming and by providing resources, training, information and activities free of charge.





IMPACT UPDATE

Centreville Barrack Welcomes Home Trooper After Military Deployment To Afghanistan

(CENTREVILLE, MD) — The Centreville Barrack recently welcomed home Trooper First Class Megan Heun who spent most of last year in Kabul, Afghanistan on a military deployment.

TFC Heun, who graduated from the Maryland State Police Academy in December 2013, was the detachment commander of a protective services detail in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is a military police officer and holds the rank of sergeant first class in the Army.

Her husband, TFC Mason Heun, is currently stationed at the Princess Anne Barrack. He is also serving in the US Army as a first sergeant in the Military Police.

TFC Megan Heun was in charge of a Protective Service detail of Military Police Soldiers. Their job was to protect an Army general. The role is similar to the way the state police Executive Protection Unit protects the governor.

TFC Heun is one of



Centreville First Sergeant Brian Gill, TFC Mason Heun, TFC Megan Heun and Lt. Robert Connolly

many state troopers who also serve in the military or have previous military experience. Thank you to all of those troopers who are protecting us both home and abroad.

The Maryland State Police is seeking active military, veterans and members of The National Guard to serve as troopers.

Are you interested in joining the ranks of "Maryland's Finest"? Apply today at <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Careers/Pages/default.aspx>



TFC Anthony Piscopo-Bann and TFC Megan Heun show off their Maryland State Police banner while at Fort Bliss last year prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Raises Awareness On Safer Internet Day, Urges Digital Safety For All Ages

Investigators from the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit are working to raise awareness of what more parents and children can do to protect themselves from potential dangers on the Internet. The warnings came in conjunction with Safer Internet Day, which took place on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Safer Internet Day is a global rally to raise awareness of emerging online issues as people of all ages surround themselves with a myriad of digital devices.

This worldwide initiative educates people about issues from cyberbullying and social networking to the risks associated with using digital devices and how to stay safe when browsing the Internet, not just in February, but every day.

Investigators from the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit remind all ages to be vigilant about Internet safety. Children and senior citizens are often the target populations for online criminal activity.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's use of all digital devices and senior citizens are urged to use the Internet with caution, especially when asked to furnish personal information. Digital devices include laptops, tablets, desktop computers and 'smart' phones.



11 February | saferinternetday.org



Complaints involving the exploitation of children should be filed with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at www.missingkids.com or 1-800-THE-LOST.

Complaints of child exploitation may include harassment, cyberbullying, and child pornography. Maryland State Police investigators in the Computer Crimes Unit work closely with NCMEC in the investigation of crimes involving child exploitation. If a child is believed to be in imminent danger, citizens are urged to contact their local police or call 9-1-1 immediately.

Crime schemes that use the Internet to prey on the vulnerabilities of people of all ages continue to cost victims time and money. Victims of Internet based

crimes are encouraged to file complaints with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) online at www.IC3.gov.

Complaints of Internet-based crime may include hacking, credit card fraud, phishing, Internet extortion and identity theft. The Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit works closely with IC3 in the investigation of these crimes.

The Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit urges people of all ages to take into consideration the vulnerabilities associated with online activity. The Computer Crimes Section operates and administers the Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, which is comprised of police agencies statewide whose investigators work tirelessly to target offenders of child sexual exploitation.

Questions or comments? Email us at msh.media@maryland.gov or call 410-653-4236



IMPACT UPDATE



Maryland State Police Target Criminal Activity, Drug Use In St. Mary's County

(ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD) – As part of a multi-unit operation, Maryland State Police targeted criminal activity and drug use in St. Mary's County, which led to several arrests and the recovery of weapons in the community.

The operation took place between Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 as the Maryland State Police Firearms Enforcement Unit implemented direct enforcement activities, which were based on information about illegal drug sales and possession, firearm violations and violent crimes in St. Mary's County.

The operation was implemented due to concerns following recent violent crime in the area, including several shootings and related firearms issues in and around the Lexington Park community of St. Mary's County. The operation's highlights included five drug-related arrests, the recovery of two handguns and the service of three

arrest warrants.

The Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit Western, Central and Southern Regions, Criminal Enforcement Division (CED) Central South Drug Enforcement Unit, CED-Central South Investigators, Southern Maryland Information Center, MSP STATE Team and troopers from the Leonardtown and La Plata barracks assisted in this operation.

The results of this operation were made possible in part due to grant funds provided by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, which funds the Maryland Gun Violence Reduction Grant. Funds were also utilized through the Public Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2018.

Overall, the operation yielded the following results in St. Mary's

County:

- Traffic stops: 64 stops
- Traffic warnings: 47
- Traffic citations: 49
- Drug arrests: 5
- CDS civil citations: 4
- Driving under the influence arrests: 2
- Arrest warrants served: 3
- Handguns recovered: 2

The Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division – Firearms Enforcement Unit is committed to supporting Governor Hogan's efforts to reduce gun violence. The Firearms Enforcement Unit consists of sworn troopers tasked with traveling around the state to identify, infiltrate and dismantle firearm-related violence.



IMPACT UPDATE

Completing 2020 Census Forms Can Aid Federal Public Safety Funding for Maryland

While the U.S. Constitution requires the nation to conduct a national count of all living people, commonly known as a Census, every 10 years, it impacts the states in many important ways.

The Census determines representation in Congress and impacts local legislative districts. The population count is also the basis for funding critical programs and services and assists local decision-making for economic development, school construction and transportation projects as well as public health, public safety and emergency planning.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$675 billion in

funding based on Census data. From a public safety perspective, consider the following funding nationally from Fiscal Year 2015 alone:

- \$1.93 billion for crime victim assistance.
- \$1.72 billion for block grants for prevention and treatment of substance abuse.
- \$475 million for block grants for community health services
- \$94 million for family violence prevention and services/ grants for battered women's shelters
- \$49 billion for safe and drug free schools



and communities state grants

- \$47.6 billion for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention allocations to the states.

Consider this: Every Marylander not counted in the Census costs the state approximately \$18,250 over 10 years. This equates to the state losing \$26.6 billion (based on historical U.S. Census undercount).

Completing your Census form ensures Maryland families, neighbors and communities receive the support they need to live, work, play and grow.

Filling out your Census form is easy and can be done in three ways, by mail, phone — and for the first time ever — online.

Remember, the U.S. Census Bureau must keep all information confidential, including a resident's citizenship, income and other sensitive personal data. All Census information is private and protected by law in Title 13 of the U.S. Code with violations punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

For more information on the Census in Maryland, visit census.maryland.gov.

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.



respond
online



respond by
phone



mail a paper
questionnaire



respond
in person

Find out more . . .

Questions or comments? Email us at msh.media@maryland.gov or call 410-653-4236